

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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DEPT PASS HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEER EG SO ET SU
SUBJECT: GOE CONCERN ABOUT HORN OF AFRICA

REF: STATE 101007

SUMMARY: MMA OFFICIAL SAYS SOMALIA HAS ASSURED U'S'
ITS WEAPONS WOULD NOT BE USED AGAINST ETHIOPIA OR KENYA.
SAID'S TRIP TO CHINA PROVES HE NOW HAS SITUATION
UNDER CONTROL. SOVIETS ADVISING ETHIOPIA TO DELAY
ATTENDANCE AT OAU GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE MEETING IN
HOPES SIAD REGIME CAN BE DESTABILIZED. GOE VIEWS WITH
ALARM CUBAN BUILD UP IN ERITREA AND FEARS SUDAN WILL
INEVITABLY BE INVOLVED. MENGISTU ATTEMPTING PERSUADE
SOVIETS TO MAKE MASSIVE MILITARY STRIKE AGAINST ERITREA
BEFORE ENGAGING IN NEGOTIATIONS. CUBAN PRESENCE IN
AFRICA STILL INCREASING. GOE REQUESTS ANY INFORMATION
DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE ON SECRETARY'S TALKS IN MOSCOW
TOUCHING ON HORN. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING APRIL 20 CALL ON DIRECTOR MFA AFRICA DEPART-
MENT AMB. AHMED SIDQI, POLCOUNS DREW ON PARAS 3
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AND 4 OF REFTTEL IN DISCUSSION OF HORN. CONCERNING
POSSIBILITY OF US DEFENSIVE WEAPONS FOR SOMALIA, SIDQI
NOTED THAT GOE HAD RECEIVED A WEEK AGO INFO THAT SIAD
HAD GIVEN SPECIFIC ASSURANCE TO U.S. THAT NO U.S.
WEAPONS WOULD BE USED AGAINST ETHIOPIA OR KENYA. GOE
HAD IMPRESSION THAT SOMALIS BELIEVED THESE ASSURANCES
WERE SUFFICIENT SOMALI CONCESSION TO OBTAIN SOME U.S.

WEAPONS AND SOMALI AMBASSADOR TO CAIRO HAD NOT MENTIONED U.S. DESIRE THAT SOMALIA PUBLICLY RENOUNCE USE OF FORCE AGAINST NEIGHBORS. SIDQI UNDERSTOOD THAT SOMALI RENUNCIATION OF FORCE AGAINST NEIGHBORS WAS MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE TO U.S. IN LIEU OF SOMALI RENUNCIATION OF TERRITORIAL CLAIMS AGAINST NEIGHBORS BUT OPINED THAT SOME HARD BARGAINING IN STORE IF ARMS AGREEMENT TO BE REACHED.

2. SOMALI SECURITY SITUATION. SIDQI BELIEVED THAT APRIL 8 ABORTIVE COUP ATTEMPT IN MOGADISCIO WAS INEVITABLE IN WAKE OF SOMALI DEFEAT IN OGADEN, BUT THOUGHT SIAD NOW HAS SITUATION WELL IN HAND AS SIAD'S TRIP TO PEKING PROVES. GOE HAS HEARD THAT SIAD MAY TAKE UP STANDING INVITATION FROM GISCARD D'ESTANG TO VISIT FRANCE AFTER PEKING VISIT.

3. GOE BELIEVES SOVIETS STRONGLY HOPING THAT SIAD REGIME CAN BE "DESTABILIZED" AND FOR THIS REASON ARE URGING ETHIOPIA TO DELAY ATTENDANCE AT OAU GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE MEETING UNTIL SITUATION IN MOGADISCIO CLEARER. EGYPTIANS BELIEVE THAT SOMALIS HAVE EXAGGERATED NUMBER OF REFUGEES FROM OGADEN NOW IN SOMALIA FOR HUMANITARIAN/ PROPAGANDA REASONS AND EGYPT ESTIMATES MAXIMUM NUMBER OF REFUGEES TO BE 150,000 INCLUDING WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

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4. ERITREA. EGYPTIANS CONTINUE TO REGARD ETHIOPIAN/ CUBAN BUILD-UP IN ERITREA WITH ALARM, PRIMARILY BECAUSE GOE CERTAIN THAT SUDAN WILL BE DRAGGED INTO FIGHTING IF "INEVITABLE" STRIKES MADE ACROSS SUDANESE BORDER. SIDQI OPINED THAT MENGISTU NOW REALIZES THAT TOTAL EPMG VICTORY IN ERITREA UNLIKELY, BUT HAS PERSUADED SOVIETS THAT ETHIOPIA WOULD BE IN BEST NEGOTIATING POSITION IF MASSIVE MILITARY STRIKE CAN BE MADE AT ERITREAN FORCES PRIOR TO SOVIET-BROKERED NEGOTIATIONS WITH ERITREANS. SIDQI ASKED WHETHER ERITREAN QUESTION WOULD BE RAISED BY SECRETARY VANCE DURING DISCUSSIONS IN MOSCOW AND REQUESTED ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE FOLLOWING SECRETARY'S VISIT.

5. CUBA. SIDQI STRESSED THAT GOE DOES NOT BELIEVE CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA LEVELING OFF BUT RATHER ON UP SWING. MFA HAS RECEIVED REPORTING FROM EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR HANAVA THAT WITHIN "PAST FEW DAYS" 12 CUBAN ANTONOV TRANSPORT PLANES HAD DEPARTED HAVANA FOR AFRICA (DESTINATION UNKNOWN). (COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ANTONOV FLIGHTS COULD BE NORMAL TROOP ROTATIONS, EGYPTIANS CLEARLY BELIEVE THAT THIS NOT THE CASE AND THAT FLIGHTS

REPRESENT OVERALL INCREASE CUBAN AFRICAN PRESENCE.)
EILTS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE COLLECTIVE.

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